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December Innovation & Entrepreneurship Cluster Minutes

Plymouth State University

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**Innovation & Entrepreneurship Session
December 16, 2015 4-6 pm in Hyde 218**

Who?

- Who was in attendance? (faculty, staff, which departments)
- Who shared a project?
- Who seemed to be emerging as a leader or “key player” (include some notes on why—quotes are always good!)
- Who self-identified as interested in taking the lead on a project/cluster?
- Who seemed to be good at determining next steps?
- What external partners were suggested for each project?

Those attending:

Kathy Tardif, Campus Ministry

Roger Blake, Mathematics

Eric Laflamme, Mathematics

Nancy Puglisi, Counseling

Deborah Brownstein, CoBA faculty

Denise Normandin, Human Resources

Alice Staples, Library

Ross Stever, CoBA faculty

Roxana Wright, CoBA faculty

Bonnie Bechard, CoBA faculty

Robyn Parker, Dean of CoBA

Melinda Barnsley, CETL

Ava Tyler, Admissions

Danielle Mishkit, Admissions

Anne Jung-Mathews, Library, Clusters Communication team, Scribe

Bonnie Bechard shared a project that she is currently involved in with the student group ENACTUS. The group acts as entrepreneurs based on community needs (social entrepreneurial ship was a term used). External partners are The Common Man, Bridge House for local veterans, Whole Village Family Center (they have many needs in all areas).

Kathy Tardif, Catholic Campus minister, had good ideas on how PSU staff could work with faculty to develop projects. She used the Thanksgiving Day basket project as one example.

Attendees mentioned the NH North Country as an logical start to making university connections with the community. They are in dire need up north and could use resource help.

Maple syrup producers are many in our state and some faculty have already worked with them. Another family owned farm Paul Garrison was also mentioned as

What?

- What were some projects that were shared?
- What was the content of the main discussion?
- What were identified as next steps?
- What outcomes would there be from each projects?

Attendees did not make specific project suggestions. However, several noted preferred conditions:

1. Projects with a social component
2. Projects that solve problems
3. Projects that extend to helping those in 3rd world countries

ENACTUS: the student organization was mentioned. The group is not well known and is in its infancy. The idea is to get business students participating in community projects with a social component. Partners in the past have been: The Common Man Family, Bridge house for local veterans, Whole Village, but they have a number of extensive needs, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary clubs. Someone mentioned having social worker majors work in this project and not just business students.

Connecting PSU to North Country tourist operations and companies was mentioned by several. Also North Country products, such as maple syrup and artwork.

Apprenticeship programs were mentioned.

Can the current Enterprise Center be a model for the academy? No director now, but search is underway.

Where?

- Describe the time, date, location of the session
- If additional meetings are scheduled, include information about those
- Where does this cluster appear to be going?

No additional meetings were scheduled.

There was some discussion on how we could get North Country businesses to come to PSU.

Why?

- What was said that suggests why the projects discussed would fit within the same cluster?
- What comments were made that hints at a conceptual definition of the cluster?
- What rationale was presented about projects?
- What seems to be the ROI on projects?

There was some discussion on whether or not innovation and entrepreneurship was part of ALL clusters or whether it should be a stand-alone cluster. The goal is not to necessarily make money but this cluster should be able to offer skills to make money working with experts in a particular field. Connecting the right people with the right project, so to speak.

Many said both places. One person remarked that the unifying theme of this cluster is not just being innovative, but rather HOW to innovated. Are their projects that could focus on who one could be innovative and entrepreneurial regardless of the type of project it is? In other words, this cluster can teach innovation?

Another remark: Can this cluster take on the heavy work of getting things going; identifying the problem, seeing the problem in ways that no one else has seen it, and then offer solution(s)?

There were a few remarks about how the university's current organizational structure prevents staff members (non-faculty) from participating and contributing to clusters.

How?

- What details were shared about ways the project would be carried out?
- How would students, faculty, partners be engaged?
- What resources are needed to keep things moving?
- How soon could each project be ready to go?
- How does each project seem to support a shared view of the cluster?

What else?

- What would you say were the key outcomes of the session?
- Include any other information that would help someone not in attendance to understand the outcomes of the session?
- Include any information that would help the steering committee to leverage the discussion to move things forward.
- Feel free to snap pictures or transcribe flip charts
- Take pictures of the session to inspire others to participate.